

Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church!

By being here this evening, you are a part of a rich tradition of worship and service that began when the congregation was founded in 1869. We are happy that you are here.

St. Mark's has an active social ministry through which we care for some of the most vulnerable members of our community. The Lion's Share Food Pantry and Clothes Closet provide food and clothing to those in need. Both are open Mondays from 5pm to 7pm and Fridays from 10am to noon, except holidays.

If you would like to volunteer with The Lion's Share, call the church office or email us at lions@stmarksroanoke.org. More importantly, if you or someone you know has need of food or clothing on a non-distribution day, please call us at 540-344-9051. We won't let them go cold or hungry!



The image on the cover is a detail of a fresco of the Nativity and Baptism of Jesus from the Church of Saints Constantine and Helena in Bruges, Belgium. At the top of the image, an angel announces the birth to the shepherds and the host of heaven appears above the manger. The light of the star points to the swaddled baby, surrounded by animals. The magi with their gifts are to the left, and Mary reclines in a contemplative pose. The shepherds (and sheep) acknowledge the angel. In the bottom left, Satan, as an old, stooped man, appears to Joseph to try to convince him to abandon Mary, but Joseph's holiness (and refusal) is signified by his halo. To the right, women appear washing the infant Jesus, a sign of his full humanity. Image credit: Jozef Sedmak | Dreamstime.com.

The Sights and Sounds of Worship and St. Mark's

How we worship at St. Mark's may be unfamiliar to you. Know that everything in our worship space has purpose and meaning: to help us focus on the resurrected, living Lord Jesus who welcomes all into his house.

The room you are sitting in for worship is called the nave. The word nave comes from the medieval Latin word *navis*, meaning ship. If you look at the ceiling, you can see that it resembles the inverted hull of a ship. This architecture is deliberate, as the ship has long been a symbol of Christ's Church.

Throughout the nave are stained-glass windows. Historically, windows like these have been a way of communicating the stories of the scriptures. At St. Mark's, each window on the right and left side of the nave depicts a scene from the Old Testament and a corresponding scene from the New Testament. Some of the smaller windows remember saints of the church. The triptych (group of three windows) above the altar shows the risen and reigning Jesus flanked by the Virgin Mary and St. John, the beloved disciple.

During the seasons of Advent and Christmas, the Chrismon Tree enhances our worship space. The tree is adorned with white and gold *Chrismon* ornaments. Chrismon means "Christ monogram" and the ornaments represent the name, life, or saving acts of Jesus Christ in some way. Many of the symbols used on the tree are ancient, but the practice of putting them on a tree is relatively modern – the first Chrismon Tree was created in 1957 for the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, VA.

As the worship procession begins, the congregation will stand. Worship at St. Mark's includes standing at various times because we are worship participants, not simply spectators. We also stand in worship because standing is the posture of the Resurrection, and Christians are people of the resurrected Lord.

As the procession enters, you may notice that the worship leaders are wearing different robes. The various robes have different historic meanings and names. Their basic purpose, however, is to help give worship leaders a more uniform appearance so that their personal attire won't be a distraction to worshipers.

Again, we are happy you are here. It is good to be worshipping together. Welcome to St. Mark's!

About This Evening's Service

Carols by Candlelight is a "Festival Service of Lessons and Carols." You may be wondering what that means. It is a festival service because we are anticipating the celebration of Christmas, one of the principal feasts, or holy days, of the church. Lessons are simply the readings from scripture that you will hear throughout the service, and carols are the music that we hear and sing, either from instrumentalists, the choir, or from the congregation. Carols are, informally, songs about Christmas. Later in the bulletin you'll see some music labelled as hymns and some as carols; this is to help identify music sung by everyone (hymns) rather than just the choir (carols).

The traditional Service of Lessons and Carols consists of opening prayers, nine lessons followed by two carols each, and closing prayers. This service was developed in 1880 for use at Truro Cathedral in England, and was made famous by King's College, Cambridge, England, where the service has been held nearly every year since 1918. *Carols by Candlelight* uses the basic form of that service and adds reflections (short spoken pieces) that help create a narrative and weave together the lessons and the music. The inclusion of reflections in our *Carols by Candlelight* service was inspired by the hymn festivals offered by St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

carols
by candlelight
A Festival Service Of Lessons & Carols



PRELUDE

Gabriel's Message
Roanoke Chamber Brass

arr. W. Divers

Away in a Manger
Jacob Gordon, organ

arr. Emily Maxson Porter

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

arr. O. Young

Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. Wilbur Held

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. B. Wall

Once in Royal David's City

arr. David Willcocks

WELCOME

HYMN IN PROCESSION

O Come, All Ye Faithful
All stand and sing together.

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. True God of true God, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born for our sal - va - tion,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
Lo! he shuns not the vir - gin's womb,
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry given;

Come, and be - hold Him, Born the King of an - gels!
Son of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God in the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, during this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God fulfilled in this Holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, especially in this country and in the Roanoke Valley.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and

the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are forever one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace:
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life:
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen**

The people are seated.

CAROL

Up! Good Christen Folk, and Listen

Davide Mutti

Ding-dong, ding; ding-a-dong-a-ding;
ding-dong, ding-dong, ding-a-dong-ding.

Up! good Christen folk, and listen how the merry church bells ring,
and from steeple bid good people come adore the newborn King.

Tell the story how from glory God came down at Christmastide,
bringing gladness, chasing sadness, showering blessings far and wide,

Born of mother, blest o'er other, *ex Maria Virgine**,
in a stable ('tis no fable) *Christus natus hodie***.

* - of the Virgin Mary

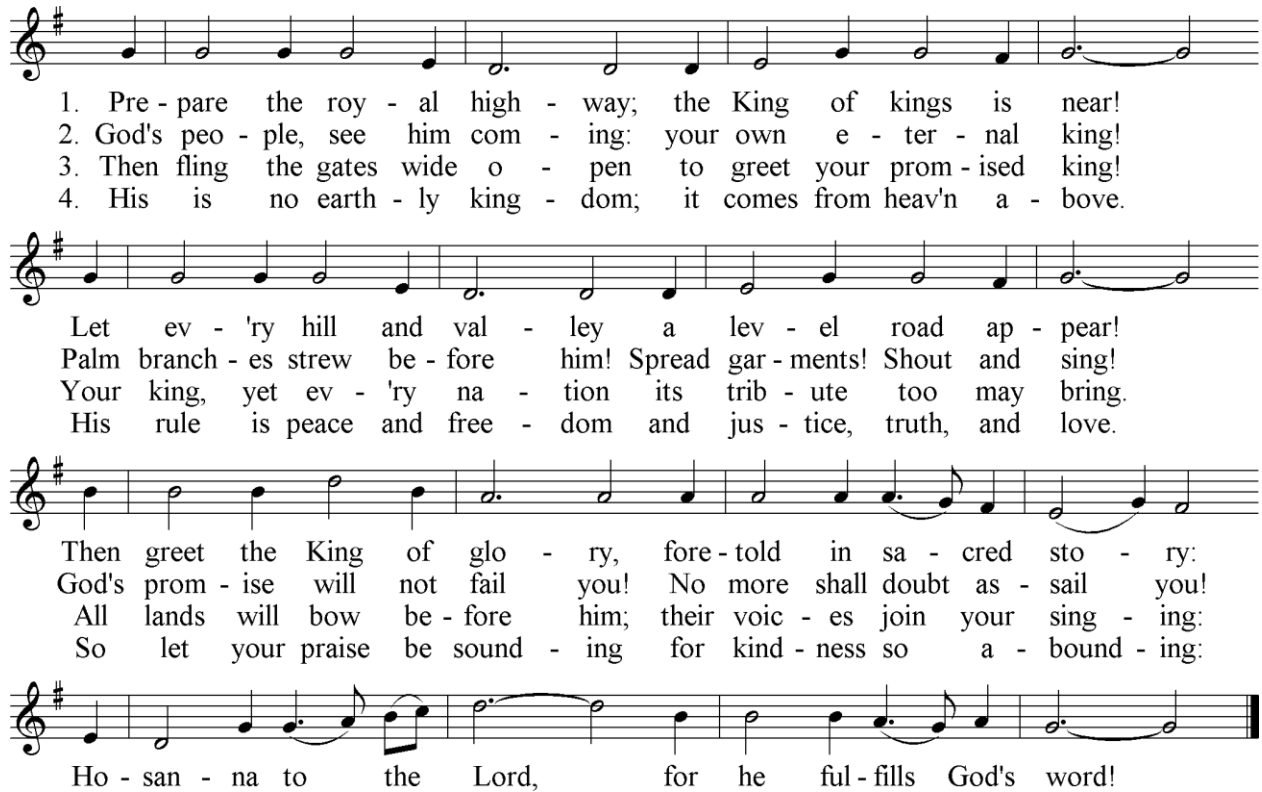
** - Christ is born today

- George R. Woodward

REFLECTION

HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway
All stand and sing together.



1. Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2. God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3. Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4. His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10
The prophet proclaims hope for the future.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

CAROL

And the Glory of the Lord

George Frideric Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

- Isaiah 40:5

REFLECTION

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
All stand and sing together.

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2. I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3. This flow'r, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man
sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who
seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a-
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to
- mid the cold of win - ter, when half-spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half-spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

LESSON

Luke 1:26-36

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in

your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL

Song of Mary

Richard Shephard

My Lord and Savior is my song, he fills my spirit with delight
to raise me up his arm is strong, the lowly precious in his sight.

*Magnificat, Magnificat, Magnificat anima mea Dominum.**

My name shall live from age to age, and every tongue his servant bless,
for mercy is their heritage whose hearts the Holy One confess.

The proud beguiled by dreams of power divided and degraded lie:
he casts them down from throne and tower and stoops to lift the humble high.

He feeds the hungry at his board and sends the rich unfilled away,
and mindful of his promised word has answered Israel’s prayer today.

With all the elders of our race, and those unborn who seek this birth,
I sing the glory of his grace who brings eternity to earth.

* - “My soul magnifies the Lord,” the first phrase of Luke 1:46 in Latin.

- Mary Holtby,
after Luke 1:46-55

REFLECTION

*During the singing of the next carol, the congregation’s candles are lighted from the Advent wreath.
To pass the light, please hold lighted candles upright
and allow others to light their candles from the flame.*

CAROL

Bethlehem Down
Evan Odson, tenor

Peter Warlock

When He is King we will give him the King's gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
"Beautiful robes," said the young girl to Joseph
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the blessed arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

- Bruce Blunt

LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem
All stand and sing together.



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



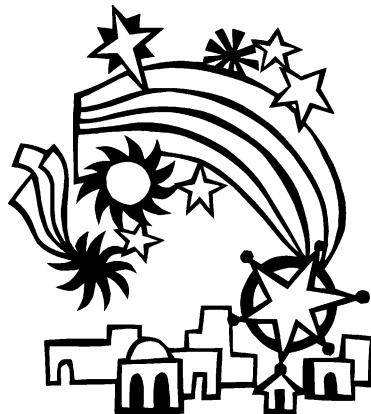
yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

REFLECTION

At the conclusion of the reflection, the congregation's candles are extinguished.



HYMN

*The First Noel**All stand and sing together as indicated.*

All: The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 All: They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing
 Choir: And by the light of that same star, three
 Women: This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er
 Men: Then en - tered in those wise men three, full
 All: Then let us all with one ac - cord sing



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in
 in the east be - yond them far, and
 wise men came from coun - try far; to
 Beth - le - hem it took its rest; and
 rev - 'rent - ly up - on their knee, and
 prais - es to our heav'n - ly Lord, who



fields where they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a
 to the earth it was gave great light, and a
 seek for a king did both in - tent, and to
 there it did both stop and stay right
 of - fered there in his pres - ence their
 hath made heav'n and earth of nought, and



cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 fol - low the star where - ev - er it went.
 o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.
 with His blood our life hath bought.

Refrain, sung by all each time

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el!



Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11
The wise men seek Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL

From a Far-Off Land

arr. Sondra K. Tucker

From a far-off land we greet the Holy Baby,
Guided by the Eastern Star so brightly shining.

*Oh, the brilliant star that tells of the new dawning,
May it always shine, and never fail to guide us!
Glory in the highest to our Holy Savior;
In the highest heaven, and on the earth, sing praise!*

To the newborn King, the Lord of all the nations,
Gift of finest gold, for the building of His temples.

Oh, the brilliant star ...

For God's holy Son we offer fragrant incense,
Perfume whose fragrance rises to the heavens.

Oh, the brilliant star ...

To the Child of Heaven, who for us became a mortal,
Bitter myrrh we bring, His sacrifice foretelling.

Oh, the brilliant star ...

- trad. Puerto Rican,
trans.by Sondra K. Tucker

MEDITATION

OFFERING

The people remain seated while the offering is received.

Tonight's offering will support Habitat for Humanity in the Roanoke Valley. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, all gifts up to a total of \$4,000 will be matched dollar for dollar. Please make checks payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church. If you prefer to give online, you may use the QR code to the right.



CAROL

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam,

Brynn Scozzari, soprano

arr. J. E. West & Philip Le Bas

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
it is the night of our dear Savior's birth;
long lay the world in sin and error-pining,
'till he appeared and the soul felt is worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born,
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming;
with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand;
so, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
here come the wisemen from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
in all our trials born to be our friend;
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another;
his law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother;
and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

- Placide Cappeau,
trans.by J. S. Dwight

All stand for the final lesson.

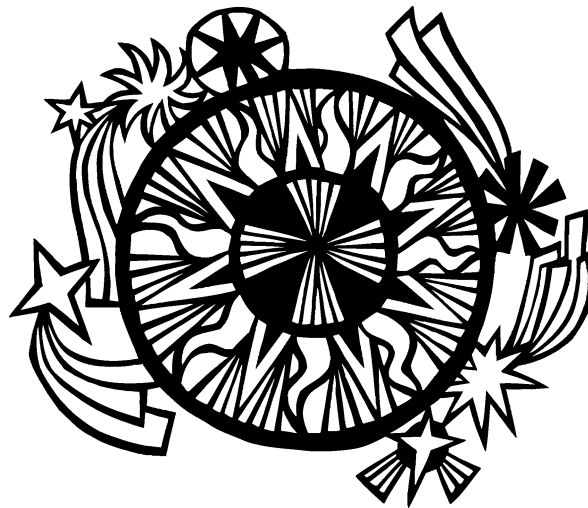
LESSON

John 1:1-14

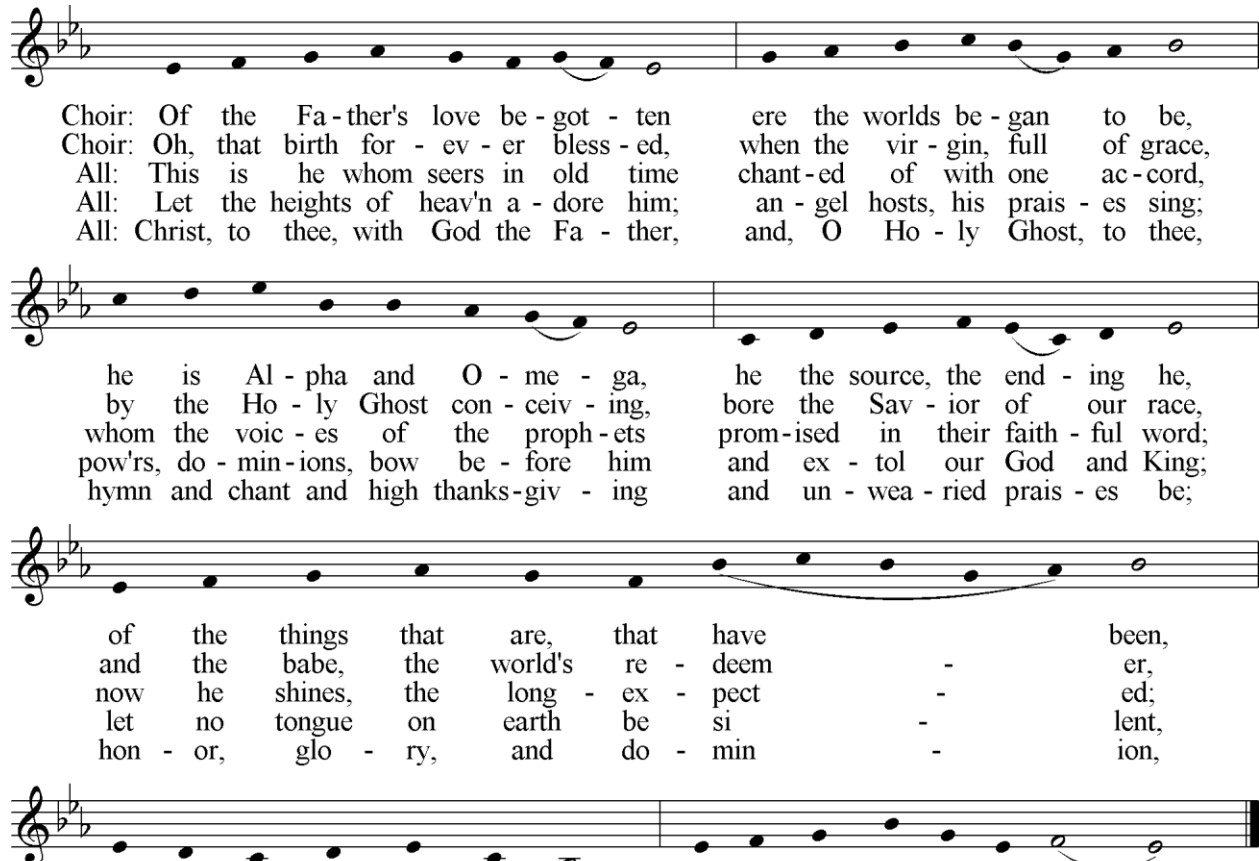
St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.



HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten


Choir: Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 Choir: Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin, full of grace,
 All: This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with one ac - cord,
 All: Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
 All: Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,

he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing he,
 by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race,
 whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word;
 pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him and ex - tol our God and King;
 hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un - wea - ried prais - es be;

of the things that are, that have been,
 and the babe, the world's re - deem - er,
 now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;
 let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion,

and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

LITANY

Christ, born in a stable,
 give courage to all who are homeless.
 Jesus, Savior,
hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
 give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.
 Jesus, Savior,
hear our prayer.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
 give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.
 Jesus, Savior,
hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.
Jesus, Savior,
hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.
Jesus, Savior,
hear our prayer.

Jesus, Savior, child of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives
and hear our prayer.
Glory to you forever. Amen

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ.
Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold
him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. **Amen**

BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take on our nature,
bless you this day, scatter the darkness of sin,
and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the
Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth
and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son, and
the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen**

HYMN IN PROCESSION

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace loving God and loving your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Jacob Gordon, organ

David Willcocks

Please join us for a reception in the Fellowship Hall
 immediately following the service.

Participants in This Evening's Service
 Rev. James Armentrout, Pastor
 Caroline Wilson, Seminarian
 Jacob Gordon, Choir Director and Organist

St. Mark's Choir & Friends

<i>Soprano</i>	<i>Alto</i>	<i>Tenor</i>	<i>Bass</i>
Karen Arthur	Sue Feazelle	Ralph Anders	James Armentrout
Cheryl Gordon	Kari Grim	Eric Mills	Charlie Blueweiss
Patti Mills	Nan Keenan	Evan Odson	Bobby Buchanan
Sarah Newcomb	Teresa Stowasser		Gary Feazelle
Connie Parsell			
Brynn Scozzari			
Sabina Ugochukwu			

Conductor: Barry Green

Roanoke Chamber Brass: Jeff Kresge & Steve Hedrick, trumpet; Gretchen Wetherald, horn;

Barry Tucker, trombone; Will Divers, tuba

Crucifer: Ali Armentrout

Acolyte: Chisom Ugochukwu

Lectors: Karen Mason, Franci Sifers, Karen Arthur, Tim Jones

Special thanks to Karen Mason, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity in the Roanoke Valley, for serving as a lector this evening.

Thanks to the generosity of the donors listed below for helping to make this Carols by Candlelight service possible. Acknowledgements reflect all gifts received by December 8, 2024.

Sustainer

Norma Armentrout

Jacob Gordon

in honor of Dyan Morgan

George Henning

in memory of Edna Henning

The Church of Hope at Pheasant Ridge

in memory of Pearle Thompson

Benefactor

Anonymous

Anonymous

*in memory of Ronnie Deaton and
 Ronnie McDowell*

Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Kemp, Jr.

In memory of Dean Kemp

Cheryl Gordon

in memory of Steve Gordon

in honor of my children and Barry Kirk

Anonymous

*in memory of Ron Adkins, Jackie Carmack,
 George Buchanan, and Steve Gordon*

Linda Anderson

Lois Ashby

Howard Barnard

in honor of Nick Leitch

Betty Burrows

in memory of Howard & Gregg Burrows

Shirley Dyer

in honor of Dana Dyer Schalk

Pat Gibbs

*in memory of Brad Gibbs and
 Wally & Pokey Himes*

Ed & Deanna Gordon

Wes & Sheri Gordon

in honor of Jacob Gordon

Carol Jensen & Family

in memory of Carl Jensen

Nan Keenan

*in memory of Clarence & Becky Keenan,
 Bill & Ethel Hart, and Ruth Moore*

Sponsor

Anonymous

(continued on next page)

Jerry B. McDaniel
 in the McDaniel and Nelson family
Mike & Susan Quesenberry
Robert Scholz & Adriana Vertti

Friend

Anonymous
Ralph & Sandy Anders
 in honor of Jacob Gordon and
 Dyan Morgan

Karen Arthur
 in memory of George Arthur
Pam Deel and Herb & Charlotte Scholz
 in memory of Guy Leon Deel
Jason Trout
Sabina Ugochukwu & Family
 in memory of Jonathan Ugochukwu and
 Peter Uzor
Becky Whisnant
 in memory Bob & Barbara McLelland

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, tr. composite
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade, arranged by David Willcocks

Prepare the Royal Highway

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*.
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent, arranged by Paul D. Weber.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission under
OneLicense #A-729546. All rights reserved.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Text: German carol, 15th cent., tr. Theodore Baker, sts.1-2; Harriet Krauth, st. 3;
John Mattes, st. 4
Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599;
harm. Michael Praetorius, arranged by Mitchell R. Weisiger.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Text: Phillips Brooks
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, arranged by T. Tertius Noble

The First Noel

Text: English traditional
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional, arranged by David Willcocks

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, tr. composite
Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong Mode V, 13th cent., arranged by Michael Burkhardt

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley
Music: MENDELSSOHN, by Felix Mendelssohn, arranged by David Willcocks

The **Bidding Prayer** is adapted from that used at King's College, Cambridge.
The **Litany** is from *Common Worship: Times and Seasons*, © 2006, The Archbishops' Council.
The **Concluding Prayer** is the traditional Collect for Christmas Eve from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

Scripture quotations from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.